



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Christine Yorozu, found 89 elected and 13 appointed officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Tuesday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15th reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Yorozu said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public’s interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two warning letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 6, 2002 and letter with an opportunity to pay a \$50 fine and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on May 21, 2002.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

Government officials from the King County area who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing are:

Michele Yapp , College Board Member, University of Washington	\$150 Penalty
Andrew Williamson , City Council Member, City of Black Diamond	\$150 Penalty
Jeffrey Merrill , City Council Member, City of Bothell	\$150 Penalty
Kevin James , City Council Member, City of Burien	\$150 Penalty
Richard Benjamin , City Council Member, City of Des Moines	\$150 Penalty

On Tuesday, Yorozu also levied civil penalties to three lobbyist employers for failure to file annual employer reports due February 28, 2002. Laidlaw Transit, SBC Telecom Inc., and the Washington State Association of Independent Outpatient Programs were each fined \$500.

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